National Renewal Fund

544. DR. B. B. DUTTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2325 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th August, 1995 and state:

(a) whether NRF is being extended to State level PSUs also; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) The National Renewal Fund (NRF) has been set up by Government in February, 1992 to provide a social safety net for workers affected by technology upgradation, modernisation and industrial restructuring of Indian Industry. In the first instance, assistance from the NRF has been provided for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in only Central Public Sector Undertakings.

Cases of Blindness

545. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Indian Express of the 28th October, 1995 under the caption "Four more aclipse-related cases at AIIMS"

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that some cases of blindness of children had taken place in the year 1993, when the children were taken for cataract operation; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken against the guilty authority by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) In AIIMS, 12 patients were examined in the Solar Eclipse Cell of Dr. R. P. Centre. 2 patients aid not have any evidence of foveal burn and the rest of the patients had varying degrees of visual affection but none of them was blinded.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not airse.

Inclusion of Medical Services Under Consumer Protection Act

546. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court, in its recent judgement has asserted that the medical services rendered by Doctors come under the purview of Consumer Protection Act;

(b) if so, the details of the rulings made by Supreme Court in this regard;

(c) whether Government Hospitals in Delhi are covered under the said Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) to (d) The main conclusions of the judgement of Supreme Court of India dated 13th November, 1995 in the case of Indian Medical Association versus V.P. Santha and others in Civil Appeal No. 688 of 1993 are given in the annexed statement.

Statement

The main conclusion of the judgement of Supreme Court of India in the case of Indian Medical Association versus V.P. Santha and others dated 13th November, 1995 in Civil Appeal No. 688 of 1993 regarding Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are as under:—

Service rendered to a patient by a Medical Practitioner (except where the doctor renders service free of charge to every patient or under a contract of